

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11 and 21-27.

Please amend claims 10, 12, 14, 16-17, and 19-20 as follows:

10. (Amended) A banknote validator including an optical sensor for sensing optical characteristics of a banknote being validated, the optical sensor comprising a light source, a light guide and a photodetector which is preceded by an optical filter, wherein the light source is a source of broadband light and the light guide is arranged to operate as both an incident light-directing means for directing light from the light source onto the banknote, and as a reflected light-directing means for directing light reflected from the banknote to the photodetector via the optical filter.

12. (Amended) A banknote validator according to claim 10, wherein the light guide is substantially in the form of a trapezoid, the narrow end of which is adjacent to the light source and the photodetector and the broad end of which is adjacent a banknote path.

14. (Amended) A banknote validator according to claim 10, wherein the optical sensor comprises a plurality of photodetectors and a plurality of optical filters to which light is directed by the light guide, the optical filters having different passbands and being associated with respective photodetectors.

16. (Amended) A banknote validator including an optical banknote sensor configured to sense light reflected by a banknote being validated, characterized in that the sensor is configured to sense light reflected obliquely from the banknote being validated.

17.(Amended) A banknote validator according to claim 16, wherein the sensor is configured to sense light reflected from the banknote being validated at an angle in the range 60° to 80° to the surface of the banknote at the point of reflection.

19.(Amended) A banknote validator according to claim 16, wherein the optical banknote sensor comprises a light guide for guiding light from the banknote being validated to a photodetector.

20.(Amended) A banknote validator according to claim 19, wherein the light guide comprises a transparent, trapezoidal, planar solid having a narrow end and a broad end, the narrow end being adjacent the photodetector and the broad end being adjacent a banknote path.

Please add new claim 28 as follows:

28.(New) A banknote validator according to claim 12, wherein the light guide comprises a translucent planar solid.

REMARKS

The above amendments to the abstract and the specification at pages 14, 16 and 19 have been made to correct an error with regard to reference numeral 34. As correctly disclosed in the originally filed specification at page 10, line 5, the banknote validator includes a light guide 34. This light guide was incorrectly identified as light guide "33" in the abstract and in the specification at pages 14, 16 and 19. Accordingly, the amendments to the specification and abstract correct this error. In addition, the specification at page 10, line 5; page 13, line 29; page 16, line 1; and the abstract have been corrected to identify the light guide as a *trapezoidal* light guide (see claim 12 as originally filed). In addition, page 20 has been amended to correct several typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Applicants also submit herewith proposed corrections to Figs. 10 and 12 which correctly refer to the light guide 34. In addition, Fig. 10 has additionally been corrected to include reference numerals 111 and 112, which are identified in the specification at page 14, lines 14-16.